

NEW YORK STAGE GOSSIP

Gilbert Has Given an Amusing Opera in "His Excellency."

MABEL LOVE'S BABY FACE

She Makes Her Finger Tips Look as if They Had Been Dipped in Gore. Nancy Sykes' Chat About Players and Players She Has Seen—"Heart of Maryland" Is a Success.

New York, Oct. 26.—"His Excellency" at the Broadway is a success. W. S. Gilbert has given us an amusing and a story as ever was set to music, and Dr. Osmond Carr's score is good. I don't like his music as well as I do Dr. Arthur Sullivan's, but I know people who think highly of it, and when there is any doubt expressed as to which of those composers has succeeded best, you may know that Dr. Carr's melodies are not very bad.

George Edwards' London Company is composed of people who know how to sing, dance and act. There is not an incompetent person in the cast. Julius Stieger has a fine baritone voice which is well cultivated, and his acting is far superior to what is usually seen in comic opera. He seems to have improved since he appeared here last with Marie Tempest, and fine parts make fine actors and the "Sweet Marie" always held the center of the stage, only allowing Julius to make himself immortal by sharing in the famous "Tempest kiss."

William Philip, the tenor, has a sweet voice, which he uses with excellent taste, but I fear that Willie thinks he is a "masher." The night I saw "His Excellency" he smiled at the ladies in the boxes and not only that, but all in that part of the theater were laughing at him.

There is a time and place for everything, and Mr. Philip would create a better impression if he desisted from ogling women while on the stage. A. C. Cramer in the part of a young physician was pleasing. He brought a pleasant surprise to our own "Dickey" Mansfield.

John Le Hay, the comedian, has little to do, but he does that little well, and is the possessor of an extraordinary physical gurgling laugh which is infectious.

I can't say I care for Nancy McIntosh, prima donna. She has a pretty voice, but her manner is arrogant and she wears a continuous "property" smile which makes one tired after a few hours.

Edwina, the girl of all life and ginger as an egg is full of meat. She has also an attractive appearance. Alice Barnett as the giddy old woman is "Big" with a big "B" you will observe.

Mabel Love, the dancer of the company, has a baby face, which is prettier and more youthful in repose than when wreathed in smiles and her hair and finger tips so red that they look as though they had just been dipped in gore.

One of the funniest hits seen on the stage for a long time is the ballet of the chorus men. I don't know from what theater the premieres are imported, but they certainly are equal to the "Black Crook." Although dressed as soldiers, they are compelled by their governor, who is a practical comedian, to dance from "10 till 2," like ballet girls, and with perfectly serious faces they prouette, kick and pose in the most approved manner.

Ernest Snow, the dancing corporal, never loses his military bearing through all of his undignified performance, and this probably accounts for it. He is a real captain in the Forty-seventh Regiment, the Highlanders, and is enjoying a year's furlough by playing in opera.

If a few more soldiers in place of the many stage-struck society ladies, were to adopt the stage as a profession the public would be benefited thereby.

It was a hostile war zone truly to see the new productions this week. Monday night I saw "Leonardo" at the Garrick Theater, and Tuesday night I divided up between David Belasco's "Heart of Maryland," at the Herald Square, and Henry Gay Carleton's "Ambition," with Nat Goodwin, at the Fifth Avenue.

The book of "Leonardo" is by Gilbert Burgess, a London novelist, and has been brightened up a bit by Madeline Lucette Ryley, author of "The Forty-seventh," "The Maid of Plymouth" for the Bostonians. The hero of the opera is Leonardo da Vinci, a young sculptor, who has been devoted to his art that even the "new woman" has failed to charm him, until one Beatrice, daughter of the Duke of Milan, appears on the scene, and turns his attention to her instead of art.

When Milan is invaded the duke is imprisoned. To raise the ransom for his father, Leonardo poses as a model for Leonardo. Finally the clouds part, the sun peeps through the rifts, and thanks to the kind author and his happy help.

The comedy includes J. R. Ryley, Virginia Earle, Lucille Saunders, Margaret Lemon and others.

The "Heart of Maryland" is a sort of war drama. There are no battles fought on the stage, in the wars, nor in the distance, but the scenes are laid in Boston, Maryland, at the time when the Confederate army crossed the Potomac and invaded the State. Maryland Calvert, the heroine, comes from a family of soldiers, and lives with her aunt on the family estate.

Lloyd Calvert, her brother, and a graduate of West Point, has, unknown to his family, espoused the Union cause and has been detailed to act as a spy within the Southern lines.

Just like a girl, Maryland falls in love with Col. Alan Kendrick, of the United States Cavalry, but on account of differences of opinion they quarrel and separate. Alan's father, convinced by the heroine, forces her to take up her quarters at the Calvert home.

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